

HOUSE RESOLUTION 143
By Bowers

A RESOLUTION memorializing the United States Congress to redirect money from the military budget to the states for community improvements.

WHEREAS, although it is incumbent upon the United States that it retain its position as the strongest military nation in the world, the security of our nation is fundamentally dependent, not on military might, but on the well-being and vitality of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, programs which sustain and improve the health, education, affordable housing, environmental protection, and safety of our citizens are being transferred from the federal to the state governments; and

WHEREAS, the funds provided to states by the federal government are insufficient to fulfill these responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the seven countries currently identified as this country's potential adversaries have a combined military budget of \$15 billion, while the United States military budget for 1997 is \$265 billion; and

WHEREAS, the United States military budget remains at Cold-War levels and contains: \$11.4 billion not requested by the Pentagon, \$25 billion for 10,000 nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, and \$40 billion in excess of what many former military leaders and leading business executives consider sufficient; and

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WHEREAS, current Pentagon spending outweighs all military threats, and creates fewer jobs than increased spending on domestic programs would deliver; and

WHEREAS, shifting funds from the military to repair our infrastructure would dramatically improve the well-being of our citizens and strengthen our ability to compete successfully in the world market; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we strongly urge the United States Congress to redirect sufficient amounts of money from the military budget to the several states to meet the critical needs of rebuilding communities and inner cities, repairing schools, educating children, eliminating hunger, providing housing, improving transportation, protecting the environment, and obtaining a decent level of health care and safety for all citizens, thereby increasing the safety and welfare of all Americans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States, each Member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation, and the Secretary of State and the presiding officers of each House of the legislatures of each of the other states in the Union.